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PUBLISHED 2D OCTOBER, 1814.

**S**OVEREIGN of a nation too long oppressed, which has suffered the most cruel persecutions, and which, by its energy, constancy, courage, and valour, has succeeded in effecting its liberty and independence, our only end, our unceasing anxiety, has been to give to it a rank among civilized states, by consecrating our labours to the happiness of a good, brave, and generous people, which has entrusted to us the care of its destinies.

It is under favourable circumstances in which liberal and dignified ideas appear to predominate over those disastrous times when mankind groaned beneath the most horrible tyranny, and under which we behold the sovereigns of Europe solely engaged at present in rendering their people happy, that we deem it our duty to raise our voice, and to justify at the tribunal of nations, the legitimacy of our independence.

A simple relation of facts, a plain narrative of the events which have produced our independence, will be sufficient to demonstrate by the most satisfactory evidence to the whole world our rights and the justice of our cause.

We shall not attempt to depict the deplorable situation into which we were

plunged before the epoch of our emancipation. The world knows that for upwards of 150 years we were afflicted by the grievous yoke of slavery, condemned to contempt and punishment. The recital of our protracted misfortunes, and the description of the horrible torture we have suffered during the colonial system, are the peculiar province of our history, which will transmit them to posterity.

It is our earnest wish to pass over these times of opprobrium and iniquity, and arrive at the era when general liberty was proclaimed by the agents of the French government, and sanctioned by France herself, during several years of connexion, of communication, and of mutual and uninterrupted correspondence between the governments of the two countries.

We were worthy of liberty from our fidelity and attachment to the mother country; we have proved our gratitude to her when reduced to our own resources, inflexible to menaces, inaccessible to seduction, deaf to proposition, we braved misery, famine, and all kinds of privations, and finally triumphed over both her external and internal enemies. We were then far from foreseeing that twelve years afterwards, as a reward for so much perseverance, so many sacrifices, and so much blood, France would wish to deprive us, in the most barbarous manner,